

**Committees:**

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Finance Subcommittee on State Government and  
Agency Review  
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**Contact Information:**

Office: 614-644-6011  
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253  
Fax: 614-719-6980  
Rep89@ohiohouse.gov

**Representative Steven Arndt**  
Ohio House of Representatives, 89<sup>th</sup> House District

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley Ranking Member Glenn Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 315, which would designate the sixth day of October as S.M.A.R.T. stands for Social Media Awareness, Respect and Timing Parent Day otherwise known as S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day.

As technology helps us connect with one another in newer and more efficient ways, unfortunately, many of our children become victims of online harassment and bullying. In the United States alone, according to the Centers of Disease Control, in 2016 16% of all high school students reported being bullied electronically in the past twelve months and in 2015 33% of all high school students were bullied electronically. However, bullying is most common in middle school students—24% reported being cyber bullied in 2015.

There is a strong correlation between cyber bullying and suicide. A new study compiled by the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting recently found that in the last decade, the number of children and teens admitted to children's hospitals for thoughts of suicide or self-harm has more than doubled.

House Bill 315 is a bill that helps parents become more alert to the signs of social media and cyber bullying displayed by their children. Unfortunately, many victims are reluctant to let adults know they are being bullied because they are ashamed or afraid that their access to technology will be taken away.

A constituent in my district brought this legislation to my attention after her own experience of cyber bullying led her to make awareness and prevention of this problem her passion.

Again, Chairwoman Anielski and the members of the committee for taking the time to listen to sponsor testimony on House Bill 315. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.